



State Representative Charles ROSS

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Charles ROSS

2014 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am writing to give you an update on the 2014 legislative session, which adjourned on time March 13, and also to offer you my thanks.

As you may have heard, this will be my last year as your state representative. It has been a great honor to serve you in the Legislature, and I thank you for the privilege.

Throughout my eight years in the state House I have learned so much from you, and have tried my best to represent you and our shared values in the Legislature.

Together we have proved that it is possible to have a sustainable, balanced budget without new taxes – as we did last year, and continued to do this year. With your support, the Legislature prioritized funding for education, public safety and people with developmental disabilities.

I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people throughout the district. I hope our paths continue to cross.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope you find this newsletter informative.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Ross".

Charles Ross
State Representative
14th Legislative District

The 14th District legislative team

As I close out my time in the state Legislature, I'd like to take a moment to recognize my fellow 14th District legislators, Sen. Curtis King and Rep. Norm Johnson.

It has been a privilege working alongside Curtis and Norm. I'm proud to call them not only my colleagues but my friends as well.

Reps. Johnson and Ross in the House Republican Caucus room.



CHARLES ROSS

The budget:

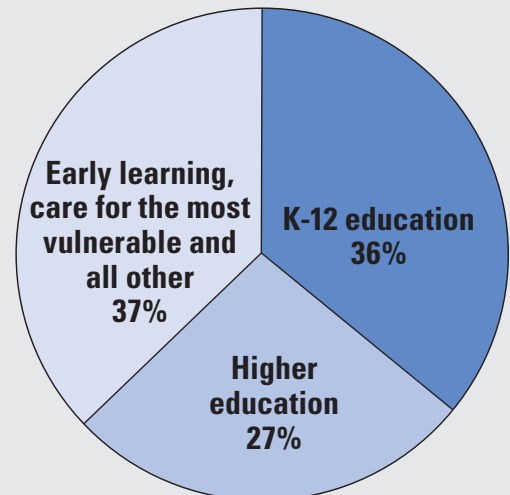
Balanced, sustainable... and no new taxes

Last year I was proud to help craft a 2013-2015 state operating budget with a four-year balanced budget requirement. That requirement helped fend off proposals for big spending and tax increases this year.

Since this was a short, 60-day session, we made only minor changes to the budget. The “supplemental” budget we passed is stable, sustainable, and keeps faith with taxpayers.

For the first time since the 2008 recession we started the year in the black, thanks to the slowly recovering economy. We targeted taxpayer dollars where the needs are greatest: Education, care for the most vulnerable – people with developmental disabilities, mental health and long-term care – and public safety.

Where did your money go? 2014 Supplemental Budget



Percentages based on net policy adjustments.

Caring for the most vulnerable

During session, a remarkable group of people traveled by bus from the 14th District to visit Olympia. Caregivers for people with developmental disabilities, and their clients, met with me to discuss the wonderful work they do.

It is thanks to the excellent care provided throughout the developmentally disabled (DD) community that clients enjoy such a high quality of life. Our caregivers deserve support – including financial support – for the services they provide. Most of them work for very low hourly wages.

Twice during session I put forward proposals to give caregivers a pay raise, with the money coming from existing federal funds. I proposed a \$2 per-hour raise, and when that failed, a \$1 per-hour raise. Unfortunately, the majority party voted both proposals down.

Finally, I was able to secure a 30-cent per-hour caregiver raise in the supplemental budget. It's not as much as they deserve, but at least it's a start.



Rep. Ross meets 14th District residents with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

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Good news on Yakima County Jail

Thanks to the hard work of local officials, including Yakima County Commissioner Kevin Bouchey and Department of Corrections Director Ed Campbell, the Yakima County Jail on Pacific Avenue may soon re-open.

The jail was built in 2006 but had to close in 2010 due to a combination of the recession and competition from other jails. Now, however, the state Department of Corrections needs more jail space.

I worked with my colleagues to secure a \$1.5 million state contract allowing 75 female inmates to be housed

at the jail. This contract will be good for taxpayers because we'll be housing inmates at a cost-effective rate, and because it will provide funds to help pay for the jail.



Honoring a local hero

Last November, I had the honor of speaking at a street-renaming ceremony in downtown Yakima to honor U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jack Pendleton, a Yakima native who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in battle during World War II.

Pendleton was killed at the age of 26 on Oct. 12, 1944 in Bardenberg, Germany. He led a squad of men trying to neutralize a nest of German machine guns.

Crawling on the ground, he was shot in the leg but continued forward alone, having ordered his men to stay put. He made it to within 10 yards of the target when he was killed in a "veritable hail of machinegun fire," as his Medal of Honor citation reports.

"By deliberately diverting the attention of the enemy machine gunners upon himself," the citation, awarded in 1945, continues, "a second squad was able to advance, undetected and with the help of Staff Sergeant Pendleton's squad, neutralized the lone machinegun, while another platoon of his company advanced up the intersecting street and knocked out the machinegun nest which the first gun had been covering.

"Staff Sergeant Pendleton's sacrifice," the citation concludes, "enabled the entire company to continue the advance and complete their mission at a critical phase of the action."

Part of "A" Street in downtown Yakima is now named after Pendleton. We thank him, and all the men and women of our Armed Forces, who have fought for our country.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jack Pendleton, Yakima native and Medal of Honor recipient.



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Problems with federal health care law

Over the past several months, I've heard from 14th District residents who have been negatively affected by the new federal health care law.

Late last year people started to receive notices that their health insurance would be cancelled. In many cases their new insurance policies were much more expensive, with monthly premiums and deductibles going up by 50 percent, 100 percent and more. Some people have found that their choice of doctors and hospitals is greatly limited under their new plans.

This session we tried to pass legislation that would have allowed people to keep their old insurance policies. After all, one of the promises of the federal health care law was, "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it."

Unfortunately, the bill didn't come to the House floor for a vote. But I believe my colleagues will continue to



push back against the federal law, which has caused financial hardship for so many people.